



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Virginia State Board of Social Services announces new officers** *Charlottesville resident Peppy Linden will serve as secretary*

**Richmond** – Peppy Linden of Charlottesville has been elected to serve as secretary during the next term for the State Board of Social Services for the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS). Her term as secretary began July 1, 2007 and marks the second time she has served in this position.

“We are delighted that Ms. Linden will continue her service on the board,” said Anthony Conyers Jr., VDSS commissioner. “Her experience and guidance have made the board stronger and more effective.”

The State Board of Social Services consists of nine members appointed by the governor. Board members are chosen based on qualifications that demonstrate each member’s suitability to consider and act upon the various needs and decisions within the board’s area of responsibility. The board is designed to include members from each region of the state, and Linden was originally appointed to the board by former Governor Mark Warner in 2005.

“As a board member, I hope to employ sensitivity, resourcefulness and dedication to the issues that impact the quality of life, perspective and sense of hope for people utilizing social services,” Linden explained.

Linden is the executive director of the Virginia Discovery Museum and has lived in Charlottesville for more than 30 years. She served for eight years on the Charlottesville Social Services Board. She is a 1999 graduate of the Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership and currently serves on their regional board. In 2004, Linden was listed as one of the “Distinguished Dozen” in the *Daily Progress* newspaper and is a former member of the Community Development Block Grant CDBG Task Force.

Responsibilities of the members of the State Board of Social Services include providing guidance and advice to the VDSS commissioner on matters that arise throughout the social services system. The board investigates questions and resolutions to issues and provides updates, findings and recommendations to the governor or commissioner. The board also adopts regulations as may be necessary and examines potential fiscal impact of such regulations on local boards.

*The Virginia Department of Social Services home office is located in Richmond and administers social services programs, consistent with federal and state law and policy of the State Board of Social Services through 120 local departments of social services throughout the Commonwealth. The VDSS mission is “People helping people triumph over poverty, abuse and neglect to shape strong futures for themselves, their families and communities.”*

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